United Nations

Daily Highlights

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MONDAY HIGHLIGHTS

+ Secretary-General urges Angolan Government and UNITA to work for successful outcome as Côte d'Ivoire peace talks start.

+ Before leaving Asia for Europe, Secretary-General meets with Thai Foreign Minister in Bangkok and with Vietnamese President and Prime Minister in Hanoi.

+ North Atlantic Treaty Organization initiates deployment of aircraft to enforce ban on military flights over Bosnia and Herzegovina.

+ As Croats and local Serbs agree on time-table to end fighting in United Nations Protected Areas, Secretary-General recommends to Security Council that it expand UNPROFOR in Croatia by 1,100 personnel.

+ International Observer Missions in South Africa condemn "dastardly" murder of Chris Hani, Secretary-General of South African Communist Party and member of National Executive of African National Congress of South Africa.

+ As former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia is admitted to membership in United Nations, Co-Chairmen on Yugoslav Conference begin negotiations to resolve outstanding differences between that country and Greece.

+ Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice opens second session in Vienna tomorrow to consider urban crime prevention and justice management concerns.

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Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali has urged the Government of Angola and the National Union for the Total Independence of Angola (UNITA) to approach the peace talks starting today in Côte d'Ivoire "with a genuine desire and firm determination to achieve a successful outcome".

The Secretary-General said there was an urgent need for an immediate end to the fighting in Angola to create favourable conditions for dialogue and to

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allow humanitarian assistance to reach millions of innocent victims of the senseless war, according to a statement issued at Headquarters. He said the solution to the problem lay with the Angolans themselves; the international community could only provide effective assistance when the parties involved demonstrated a genuine commitment to peace.

The Secretary-General expressed his gratitude to the President of Côte d'Ivoire for his commitment to peace and democracy in Africa, and the Governments of the United States, Russian Federation and Portugal for their support for the Angolan peace process.

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Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali, ending his two-day visit to Viet Nam, today travelled to Bangkok, where he met with the Foreign Minister of Thailand before departing for Rome.

Earlier today in Hanoi, the Secretary-General had meetings with the Prime Minister and President of Viet Nam, and with United Nations representatives and intellectuals and scholars in that country. Regarding Cambodia, he told the President that the United Nations would do everything possible so that the 23 May elections would proceed as planned.

Yesterday, the Secretary-General met with Viet Nam's Minister for Foreign Affairs, with whom he discussed the situation in Cambodia and recent massacres of ethnic Vietnamese there. At a reception given by the Minister, he complimented the Government of Viet Nam for its role in post-conflict peace-building in Cambodia. In the future, he said, concrete cooperative projects, which contributed to economic and social development, would be needed not only in that country but throughout South-East Asia.

In Bangkok on Saturday, the Secretary-General met with the heads of the regional offices of the United Nations system. He told them that there was a need to strengthen cooperation between different bodies by eliminating duplication of work and by unifying the United Nations family in the field. There was also a need to coordinate plans for the Organization's fiftieth anniversary celebrations in 1995, he said.

Later the same day, Mr. Boutros-Ghali was received in audience by King Bhumibol Adulyadej of Thailand, who expressed his support for the Secretary-General's efforts to bring peace to different parts of the world in the post-cold war era.

At a press conference in Bangkok on Friday, the Secretary-General expressed his belief that a great majority of the Cambodian population would participate in the election on 23 May. Only one party had refused to take part, and it represented only 5 or 6 per cent of the population.

The situation after the election would depend on the will of the majority, reiterated Mr. Boutros-Ghali, recalling that the United Nations mission in Cambodia would end at the end of August, If the new Government

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asked for certain additional assistance, the Organization would be ready to provide it, said the Secretary-General. However, he cautioned, such action would require the agreement of the General Assembly for financing, and that of the Security Council for even a symbolic military presence.

Addressing United Nations staff in Bangkok the same day, the Secretary-General stressed the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP) and other agencies and bodies had a role to play in promoting economic growth and social justice in the region.

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The North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) has adopted "the necessary arrangements" to ensure compliance with the ban on military flights over Bosnia and Herzegovina, which went into effect this morning.

In a letter to the United Nations, NATO Secretary-General Manfred Worner said that so far France, the Netherlands, Spain, Turkey, the United Kingdom and the United States had offered to make aircraft available for the operation. In order to commence the enforcement on time, aircraft from France, the Netherlands and the United States had actually been deployed in the region and liaison cells had been established in Zagreb and in Bosnia and Herzegovina at the headquarters of the United Nations Protection Force (UNPROFOR). UNPROFOR would also send a liaison team to the command headquarters of the NATO countries concerned.

The letter from the head of NATO was transmitted to the President of the Security Council by Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali.

Meanwhile, the Security Council continued this afternoon consultations on a draft text concerning the tightening of the sanctions against the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia (Serbia and Montenegro).
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Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali has recommended to the Security Council that it expand the United Nations Protection Force (UNPROFOR) in Croatia by some 1,100 personnel, pending a formal acceptance notice from the Croats and the local Serbs regarding UNPROFOR's mandate to assume all police functions in the United Nations Protected Areas (UNPA). The recommendation follows an agreement reached in Geneva last week between the Croatian Government and local Serb authorities on a time-table to end the fighting in the UNPAs.

According to a report by the Secretary-General to the Security Council, dated 8 April, the parties have agreed to withdraw their forces to previous positions, within five days of the cessation of hostilities. The Security Council had called for such an agreement under resolution 802 (1993), adopted earlier this year, as a condition for the expansion of UNPROFOR.

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Also under the agreement, UNPROFOR will fulfil exclusively all police functions in the areas concerned during an interim period and will re-establish and strengthen its military and police presence in each area from which the Croatian Government's forces are to withdraw.

In a separate development, Bosnia and Herzegovina has asked that the mandate of UNPROFOR be expanded to include the towns of Goradze and Zepa, as well as Srebrenica if necessary, to better facilitate the effective and practical delivery of humanitarian relief. In a letter to the Council President last week, Bosnian Foreign Minister Haris Silajdzic said the Serb forces were continuing their blockade preventing food, medicine and clothing to reach the starving population of eastern Bosnia.
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The International Observer Missions in South Africa have condemned the "dastardly" murder of Chris Hani, Secretary-General of the South African Communist Party and member of the National Executive of the African National Congress of South Africa (ANC).

According to a press release issued at Headquarters, the observer missions of the United Nations, the Commonwealth, the European Community and the ANC appealed to all South Africans to stay calm and to refrain from further violence which might undermine ongoing multi-party negotiations. They said Mr. Hani's contribution to the struggle against apartheid and to the peace process would always be remembered.

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The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia has been admitted to membership in the United Nations bringing to 181 the total number of United Nations member countries. The General Assembly admitted the country last week as recommended by the Security Council.

The President of the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Kiro Gligorov, told the Assembly that his country had been the only republic of former Yugoslavia to have gained its independence peacefully, and was the only one that had not participated in "the inter-ethnic and religious bloodshed which has senselessly spread over the region".

The two Co-Chairmen of the International Conference on former Yugoslavia, Lord Owen and Cyrus Vance, have begun negotiations to resolve outstanding differences between Greece and Macedonia, as called for by the Security Council. They met this morning with the Greek Foreign Minister and later with the Macedonian Deputy Prime Minister and Acting Foreign Minister.

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The Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice opens its second session in Vienna tomorrow to consider such crime-related topics as urban crime prevention and justice management concerns.

Among other themes assigned to the commission by the Economic and Social Council for the period 1992 to 1996 are: transnational crime, the role of criminal law in protecting the environment, urban crime prevention and efforts to improve the administration of criminal justice. In addition, the Commission will consider the impact of organized crime on society at large, the control of the proceeds of crime and activities carried out in the field of crime prevention and criminal justice by the United Nations system and relevant organizations.

During the 2-week session, the Commission will begin discussing how to identify the most practical course of action to be followed to render the United Nations crime prevention and criminal justice programme fully operational. The Commission will also consider the use and application of existing United Nations standards and norms in the field of crime prevention and criminal justice as well as preparations for the 1995 Ninth United Nations Congress on the Prevention of Crime and Treatment of Offenders.

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